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Heartbreak

Ashfur was in the forest weeping. Whispering as to how much he hated Squirrelfight. Even more as to how much he hated himself. He took his left paw and slashed his right arm with his claws. Blood shed. He cried more.

"I hate you! I hate you, I hate you!" he told himself, "Why do you have to be like this? StarClan... WHY?!"

"Ashfur?" a familiar voice sounded in the bushes.

Ashfur gasped in shock, "Wh-who's there?"

"It's me, Squirrelflight! Are you okay?" she dared not to show her face. But instead stayed behind the bushes.

"Go away! I don't need you! I don't need any of you!" Ashfur felt horrible saying that. But he knew it was true. Was Squirrelflight listening to him talk to himself the whole time?

"Ashfur, please..." Squirrelflight begged, "Wake up."

"I can't wake up!" Ashfur called back.

"Wake up! Ashfur!" Squirreflight called again.

"NO!" Ashfur yelled.

Just then he felt a paw jab at his side. He immediately jumped to his paws. "Wh-what?" Ashfur looked around, "Where am I?"

"I've been calling your name, mouse-brain! Stop daydreaming!" Squirrelflight said aggravated, "You're in camp and it's time to *wake up*!"

Ashfur's eyes widened, "uh... O-oh... Right."

"*Wake up*..." it rang in his ears like a bell. He didn't know why or what it meant. But it stuck with him for the rest of the day.

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Ashfur was helping Jayfeather collect herbs for the medicine supply den. He felt his heart tugging at him hard. He wanted to talk to Squirrelflight, but still felt embarrassed about this morning. She was that type of she-cat that could make your heart melt, but also tug at your heart strings.

Ashfur spotted Squirrelflight outside, hanging around that ugly looking tom. Yes, preferring to Brambleclaw. Ashfur couldn't help but feel his fur get into a knot whenever he saw Brambleclaw. He hated him so much!

"*If only there was some way I could get rid of him! Then Squirrelflight would be mine*!" he thought to himself.

"HEY!" Jayfeather called, snapping Ashfur back to reality, "Stop daydreaming and help me!"

"S-sorry, Jay!" Ashfur apologized.

Jayfeather sighed. He continued to stack herbs with Ashfur until they could stack no more. Jayfeather laid a tail on Ashfurs shoulder, "Good job. You can be done."

Ashfur smiled. He felt happy that he was being praised for his good doing. But his smile was soon wiped off by spotting Squirrelflight again. He thanked Jayfeather and padded out of the den.

Ashfur nervously walked over to her, "H-Hey, S-Squirrelflight..." he stuttered.

"Oh, hey Ashy!" Squirrelflight smiled and responded. Ashfur loved it when she called him that.

"How has your day been?" he felt the confidence coming back to him.

"Pretty good! Brambleclaw and I-"
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Ashfur squinted and growled, "Oh, *enough* about him already!" he yelled, interrupting Squirrelflight.

"What?" Squirrelflight was shocked and confused.

"I've had enough of *you and Brambleclaw,*" he made a cheeky mocking sound as if it were a disgrace to even say them in a sentence together.

Squirrelflight raised one eyebrow, "Ashfur, I've never seen you like this. What is your problem?"

"*My* problem Squirrelflight?! MY problem?!" Ashfur was now furious, "My problem is that you're always teasing me. That you never gave me a chance! I love you! You're always telling me about how you and Brambleclaw do really well and what you do all day!"

Squirrelflight was frozen in fear. She could not believe the things she was hearing. She wanted to protest, but stood there silently.

"Why do you hate me so much?! Why do you tease me?! What is wrong with me?" Ashfur cried out.

"Your problem... Ashfur," Squirrelflight hesitated, "Is that you keep me grounded."

Ashfur's eyes narrowed, "Wh-what?"

"You keep me grounded!" Squirrelflight repeated, "I'm a free spirit! But you're always telling me how "*that's too dangerous, Squirrelflight*" or "*don't do that, Squirrelflight*" it ticks me off!"

Ashfur clenched his teeth together and moved back a little, "Y-You don't mean that. I know you don't mean that!"

"Well what if I do! Huh, Ashfur?! I'm sick of you always holding me down and trying to make me jealous of Brambleclaw!" Squirrelflight yelled.

Ashfur quivered, "I hate you. Burn in the Dark Forest where you belong!"

Squirrelflight gasped and widened her eyes at Ashfur. But he made a run for it before she could say anything. Ashfur ran out of camp. He ran and he ran and he ran. He didn't stop. He ran until he reached the border of RiverClan territory. There was a nice soothing stream. He wanted to drown himself at this point. There was no way he could go on.

"I HATE MY LIFE!!" He cried out.

There was another tom nearby. Ashfur was unaware of him. He watched closely of this intriguing tom.

"I hate EVERYTHING!" Ashfur bent his head down seeing his reflection in the water and cried. His tears distorted the mirror image of him, making him feel worse of himself.

"What's going on here?" a deep voice called out.

Ashfur looked up in shock, "Wh-who are you?"

"I am me. Who are you?" the voice called out again.

"I-I am not going to say my name until you tell me who you are!" Ashfur was nervous.

A mysterious black tom with a red spiked studded collar stepped out of the shrubs. He had one white paw. Ashfur's eyes grew wide with passion. He had never seen someone so handsome before. So masculine.

"Wh-who a-are you?" Ashfur stuttered.

"I am Scourge," the tom said, "Who might you be?"

"A-Ashfur," he replied.

Scourge laughed, "I like that name. Why are you here?"

Ashfur's pelt got hot with embarrassment, "*he likes my name...*" he thought to himself.

"Are you okay?" Scourge asked, snapping Ashfur back into reality.

"O-oh! Yeah! I'm fine! It's just that-"

Scourge interrupted Ashfur by stepping a few inches closer, "What are you doing here?"

Ashfur met Scourge's gaze. He felt a hot-cold sensation fill his body. He had completely forgotten about the reason why he had even come there.

"I... I wanted to... Um... I just-" Ashfur couldn't make the right words come out of his mouth. He felt frozen.

"I see. Where are you from?" Scourge smirked, as if he knew he was making Ashfur nervous.

"Th-ThunderClan." Ashfur replied.

"Oh?" Scourge was stricken with interest, "Isn't that where Firestar lives?"

"Yeah! Also that's dumb fox-brain..." Ashfur mumbled so Scourge could hear.

"Who are you preferring to?" Scourge asked.

"My ex-crush! Squirrelflight!" Ashfur replied upset.

"*Ex*-crush?" Scourge raised one of his eyebrows and smiled his wicked smile.

"Uh... Um... I-I have to go," Ashfur felt his heart thump out of his chest.

"Do you? Might we meet again?" Scourge asked.

"Y-yeah! of course!" Ashfur smiled and replied.

"Good. I always come here around this time Be sure to visit me when you can." Scourge said.

Ashfur nodded and waved his tail goodbye. He had never seen someone so handsome before. Nor ever so intriguing and

approachable. Ashfur felt his heart skip a beat quite a few times around him. He felt his body give into him while he was around that tom. What was his name again? Scourge? That name will be imprinted on his mind. Forever.

Contemplation

[image]

Ashfur was back at camp watching Squirrelflight's every move. He knew that he had no chance with her. But he wanted nothing to do with her anyhow. She was busy snuggling up to Brambleclaw and that made Ashfur sick and slightly weak on the inside. He had not forgotten about Scourge... He knew he couldn't tell anyone about him. Especially Squirrelflight. There would be too much drama.

Ashfur sat in the middle of camp thinking of whether or not he should try and see Scourge again. The words from yesterday's conversation rang in his ears, "*I'm always here at this time. Might we meet again?*" and Ashfur still felt weak when he pictured the strong black tom in his head.

He thought of going over and attempting to impress Squirrelflight again. But that was a big no. Considering yesterday's fight, surely she wouldn't forgive him. She probably was still upset at all the things he said about her and- ... *You know who.*

Ashfur shook off the thought and continued daydreaming. Unaware of the awkward stares he was getting by his clanmates. Firestar padded over and nudged Ashfur on the shoulder, "Are you alright, Ash?" he asked.

Ashfur shook his head wildly and stumbled a little bit. He was startled to see Firestar. He looked around camp and then back at Firestar, "Y-Yeah! Oh, yeah! I'm fine! Why do you ask?" Ashfur replied slightly out of it.

"Everyone is staring at you," Firestar replied.

Ashfur pricked his ears up. He took another glance around camp. He felt ashamed for daydreaming for so long and didn't notice everyone looking at him the way they were.

"S-Sorry..." Ashfur apologized.

"Why sorry? It's amuzing!" Firestar laughed and then walked off.

Ashfur felt his pelt bristle. He wanted to swipe at Firestar when he turned away, but that would only cause more drama. He turned back towards Squirrelflight and smiled a little. She still preoccupied his thoughts. Even though Scourge sored through his mind like a hawk, she was the one he wanted.

Squirrelflight walked over to Ashfur, "Hey" was all that came out of her.

Ashfur was paying no mind, he was still daydreaming.

"Hey! Ashfur!" Squirrelflight called again.

Ashfur shook his head, "O-Oh! Squirrelflight! Sorry... I didn't see you standing there."

"Don't worry about it. Hey, I wanted to apologize for earlier." Squirrelflight responded. But there was slight distrust in her voice. As if Ashfur would lash out again.

"Really? Why? You shouldn't be the one apologizing..." Ashfur said.

"I should. I shouldn't have said those things. You should apologize too. To make it even."

"R-right," Ashfur responded, "I'm sorry... Squirrelflight. For always holding you down."

Squirrelflight widened her eyes slightly, "Wait, wh-"

"I'm sorry I always get in the way of you and Brambleclaw. You two deserve each other." Ashfur was trying to sound sympathetic. Perhaps as a way of winning Squirrelflight over.

"Ashy, you don't need to apologize for that. Like I said, I shouldn't have said those things. Yes, you may get in the way sometimes and pull me down when I want to fly, but you're a good cat either way," Squirrelflight smiled.

Ashfur knew there was no way of winning her over like this. He had

to think of something else, "H-Hey... Squirrelflight. Do you think maybe, um..."

"What's up, Ash?" Squirrelflight was curious.

"Do you maybe wanna go hunting one of these days? Just you and me? We can possibly even go and just hang out at the lake. I-if you'd like..." Ashfur asked.

"oh..." Squirrelflight looked back at Brambleclaw, "Of course. We can do that."

"Really?! You want to?" Ashfur was excited.

"Y-yeah! I wouldn't mind at all!" Squirrelflight tilted her head and smiled.

Ashfur leaped up onto his paws, happy to hear the news. He was hoping to StarClan that she would keep that promise and not bring Brambleclaw with her. Ashfur couldn't stop thinking about it for the rest of the day. He hoped that day would come soon.

~~~

It was around the time Scourge would be about the forest. Ashfur felt his body get hot and shaky. He looked around camp to see if anyone was watching. Sure enough, no one was. He snuck out of camp and sat at the same spot that he was when he had a meltdown.

"So, you're back," the deep familiar voice called. It was Scourge. He stepped out of the bushes and greeted Ashfur.

"Scourge! You are here! I thought you weren't going to-"

"Shh" Scourge shushed Ashfur with a swish of his tail, "Of course I came back. After all, you like me don't you?"

Ashfur was confused, "What? But we only met a day ago."
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"Has that ever stopped you from falling in love?" Scourge asked.

Ashfur growled, "N-No! But that doesn't mean-"

"Hush, Ashfur," Scourge shushed him again, "Sit down. We must talk."

Scourge asked Ashfur about his feelings towards any certain she-cat. Ashfur explain how Squirrelflight always teased him and played with his feelings. How he sometimes felt he was winning her over, but right after that, Brambleclaw would step in and ruin everything. Scourge listened closely and nodded when necessary. Sometimes adding a few "mm hmm" or "I see" in there. Ashfur felt comforted. At one point, Ashfur gently laid his tail on Scourge's paw. He pretended it was an accident, but Scourge knew better.

"And that's why I can't *stand* Brambleclaw! He ruins everything! He is always getting in my way!" Ashfur said.

"I understand your frustration, Ashfur. That's how women are. They tug at your heart strings," Scourge replied and then put his paw on Ashfur's.

Ashfur pulled his paw away, "Wh-what are you doing?"

"Stay still," Scourge said in a soft tone. He wrapped his tail around Ashfur's waist and put his paw on Ashfur's. Snuggling up to Ashfur, and purring.

Ashfur couldn't move. He could feel his heart beating fast. It was as if he had lost all control of his body. His mind wandered as Scourge purred and comforted him. So... It wasn't Ashfur who liked Scourge. But more like Scourge who liked Ashfur? It was confusing. He didn't want to think about it.

"S-Sc-Scourge?" Ashfur stuttered.

"Yes, Ash?" Scourge replied.

"I can't feel my legs," Ashfur said in a shaky voice.

"Am I too close?" Scourge smirked.

"N-no... Y-You're fine. I just-" Ashfur interrupted himself. He had never felt like this before. Not ever. Why was he feeling this way? Especially now. He had only just met Scourge a day ago. There was no way-.

"Your eyes are a good color. They suit you," Scourge interrupted Ashfur's thoughts and caught him staring into his eyes. Ashfur felt his heart sink, but in a good way.

Keeping eye contact was hard. Especially when he was already shaken up. But Ashfur stayed as still as he could. As still as his body would let him.

Scourge smiled, "I enjoy your company. Let's do this again."

"Y-yeah! Let's do this again! Tomorrow? Does that sound good?" Ashfur asked.

"Perfect." Scourge replied.

Sadness

Ashfur woke up almost immediately after the sun rose to greet him. He couldn't wait to see what today had in store for him! He was more excited now to see Scourge than ever before. He spotted Squirrelflight walking towards him. Oh great... What did she want?

"Hey, Ash!" she said cheerfully.

"Oh... Uh... Hey," Ashfur replied, not wanting to engage in conversation at the moment.

"You okay? Oh! I was wondering if you wanted to go hunting later!" she smiled.

Later? Ashfur thpught to himself, "How much later?"

"I think around... Maybe right before dusk!" Squirrelflight responded.

But that's when-!

"Is it a date then?" Squirrelflight was waiting for a response.

"Oh... Uh... Yeah! Sure!" Ashfur said nervously.

"Great! See you then!" Squirrelflight ran of to be with Brambleclaw. Ashfur was digusted.

"Ugh... What am I going to do?!" Ashfur scolded himself out loud. He knew he couldn't ditch Scourge to be with someone like *her*. Then again... Could he?

Ashfur was nauseous just thinking about it. He decided to wait the day off to see how everything turned out. Hoping to StarClan that Squirrelflight actually did turn him down this time.

Ashfur continued his daily warrior duties. Such as sorting herbs,

border patrolling, and hunting. He was preoccupied and didn't think about Squirrelflight once.

"Hey, Ashy!" Squirrelflight called to him.

"Yeah?" Ashfur called back concerned.

"Come check out this bird I found!" she said signaling for him to follow.

"O-oh... Okay!" he did as told.

"Get down!" she directed him. She pointed to a blue jay in the bushes and whispered to him, "Bet you never saw anything like that before!"

"No I haven't!" Ashfur replied.

"I'm gonna catch it!" Squirrelflight said excitedly.

"Good luck!" Ashfur laughed.

Squirrelflight pounced at the bird but it managed to get away.

"Fox dung!" Squirrelflight hissed.

Ashfur laughed, "Nice try, mouse brain!"

"Don't rub it in! I bet you couldn't have done it that well!" Squirrelflight puffed out her chest proudly.

"No... I'm sure I couldn't have." Ashfur replied with passion in his eyes.

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It was later in the day and it was the time when Squirrelflight had planned a time with Ashfur. He was looking forward to it. But also wasn't.

"How do I break it to her that I'm seeing someone? Wh-what if she wants to tell me she loves me?! Or... What if she knows?!" Ashfur was pacing back and fourth by the medicine cats den talking to
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himself.

"Hey, Ashfur," Squirrelflight called to him.

"Yes?" Ashfur was startled.

"Would it be okay if you met me by the river? I have to finish up things here! I'll be there in a little bit!" she told him.

But that's where Scourge is! He thought to himself.

"You okay? You look tense!" Squirrelflight observed him.

"Oh what? Yeah I'm fine!" Ashfur replied quickly.

"Oh well... Okay!" Squirrelflight walked off. She continued to pluck the ticks off the elders and ball up the moss from the queens nests.

Ashfur was nervous. He thought perhaps if he had gotten there quickly, Scourge would not be there and Squirrelflight and him would be able to spend the rest of the evening together. He dashed off into the forest and went into the bushes where he first found Scourge. He waited by the river tense and uneasy. He knew if Squirrelflight caught him with Scourge, it would be all over.

"Hello again..." a very deep and familiar voice called.

Oh no... Ashfur thought to himself.

Scourge arose from the bushes and rubbed up against Ashfur in a friendly manner. He purred and licked his cheek.

"Did you miss me?" he asked.

"Uh...Y-yeah!" Ashfur replied nervously. He looked over Scourge's shoulder trying to see if there was anyone watching. To see if Squirrelflight was there.

"Who are you looking for?" Scourge asked, "Why do you not seem excited to see me?"

"I am! It's just..." Ashfur payed no mind to the handsome black tom.

But instead kept looking out for Squirrelflight.

Scourge got in the way of Ashfur's vision. Each and every time Ashfur tried to move his head, Scourge would move in the way again.

"Pay attention to me!" he said.

"Why?! I'm looking out for Squirrelflight!" he said.

"What?" Scourge replied in a low growl, "I thought you said she was the one that broke your heart!"

"B-but she said she would meet me here! In these woods! In this very spot!" Ashfur defended both him and Squirrelflight.

"No..." Scourge's eyes went dark. He looked up at Ashfur, "You belong to me now."

"Wh-what?" Ashfur was nervous.

Scourge pounced on Ashfur pinning him to the ground. He licked up his chest and bit his neck. He kissed Ashfur and licked his muzzle. It excited him the way Ashfur was struggling to get free.

"Oh Ash... You know it only makes me more aroused the more you struggle," Scourge smiled his devious smile.

Ashfur started to tremble. He felt a wave of different emotions run though him as if he were both in love, but also scared and confused.

"I... I belong to no one! Now l-let me go!" Ashfur stuttered.

"Ashy?" a feminine voice called from behind them.

Oh StarClan have mercy... Ashfur's eyes went wide when he heard the voice.

Scourge turned his head slowly and growled at the ginger she-cat. He did not want her anywhere near his crush and possible mate.

"You stay away from him!" Scourge threatened.

"But... I wanted to talk to him! Who are you anyways?!" Squirrelflight snarled.

"Don't you know?" he asked, "I am one of the most feared leaders in all of the clans. I am Scourge. Leader of Bloodclan." he stated.

"*Bloodclan*?" Squirrelflight was shocked to hear him, "Why are you out here? What do you want?"

"I want him." Scourge looked back down at Ashfur.

Ashfur gulped. He felt like he was ready to blow up or cry. He didn't know which feeling was worse.

"Ashfur?! You're mates with the Bloodclan leader?!" Squirrelflight asked.

"No!!" Ashfur replied rashly.

Scourge's eyes glimmered with sadness. He felt his heart break.

"I see..." Scourge said. He got off of Ashfur, "So you do not like me in such manner..."

"N-no wait! It's not like that! I meant-"

"No..." Scourge cut Ashfur off, "Don't ever talk to me again." Scourge replied to him. He bolted back into the woods and was gone in a tail flick.

Ashfur was silent. Not to say a word about what had just happened.

"H-hey Squirrelflight... What was it that you wanted to talk to me about?" Ashfur broke the silence.

"It's not important..." she said, "You'd better get back to camp and clean yourself off." she started to walk off. Leaving Ashfur behind.

"No wait!" he stopped her, "It's not like that... I didn't want that to happen... Just please! Hang out with me for today? Please?" he begged.

"Ashfur... I was going to go hunting with you and ask if you wanted to go to the moor... But now is not the time... Maybe some other time okay?" she said sadly.

"But-" Ashfur was ready to cry.

"But nothing Ashfur. I'm leaving." she headed off. Soon disappearing into the woods and back to camp.

Ashfur's eyes went dark. He felt his whole body shake and his tears fell to the ground as he began to cry.

"WHY CAN'T I DO ANYTHING RIGHT?!" he screamed at the top of his lungs. Scaring away the birds.

At this point, he just wanted to run away. He wanted to become a rouge and see if anyone cared at all. See if anyone noticed that he was gone. He knew that Squirrelflight nor Scourge would care. Probably only Firestar. But he did not care. Ashfur decided to sleep out by the river that night. No matter how painful it was to be reminded on what had happened.

The Morning After

[image]

Ashfur woke up in the exact same place he had fallen asleep at. Strangely enough, he didn't feel cold at all. He actually felt quite... Warm.

Ashfur grunted and rolled onto his back sleepily. He felt breathing on his neck and Ashfur opened one eye. He looked over, "Squirrelflight?"

"Does this look like Squirrelflight to you?" Scourge asked.

"S-Scourge?!" Ashfur stuttered, "What are you doing here?"

"I wanted to apologize for yesterday. For what I did. I know you wanted time with *her*." Scourge replied with slight irritation in his voice.

"Scourge I.... I didn't mean to hurt you... I didn't mean for any of that to happen... I just-"

Ashfur was cut off when Scourge got up and put his upper body over top of Ashfur. He leaned in and kisses him softly. Ashfur closed his eyes and purred. Scourge did the same. For once, Ashfur felt happy. Even after what had happened. Scourge made him feel safe and secure. He should have realized this sooner.

Ashfur pulled away, "Scourge?" he said.

"Yes, Ashfur?" Scourge replied.

"Can... I tell you something?" Ashfur was hesitant.

"You can tell me anything," Scourge replied looking into Ashfur's eyes.

"I... I don't know for sure. But I think I like you," Ashfur confessed to him.

"Oh? Really now?" Scourge acted surprised.

"Don't act so dumbfounded, mouse-brain," Ashfur giggled.

"I know. I was just waiting for you to come out with it," Scourge admitted.

"Well I came out with it," Ashfur replied.

Scourge smiled, "About time."

"I know..." Ashfur said in a low voice. He wrapped his paw around Scourge's neck and pulled him in for another kiss. It was going to be a good day.

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Ashfur returned to camp with a big smile on his face. He was very happy at what had just went down. He saw every other cat giving him eyes of wonder. They were very curious as to what was going on inside his head.

Squirrelflight approached him, "What's got you all happy?" she asked.

Ashfur's eyes trailed off. He looked away and all around and then back at Squirrelflight, "Oohh... Stuff!" he replied smartly.

"Well what kind of *stuff* might that be?" she wondered.

"Noneya," Ashfur was being smart.

"Noneya?"

"Yeah! Noneya business!" Ashfur laughed at his own joke.

Squirrelflight rolled her eyes and padded off. She walked over to Brambleclaw and curled up next to him. Ashfur was watching and wasn't even bothered by it. In fact, he was quite happy Squirrelflight was with him.

Squirrelflight looked over her shoulder to see if Ashfur was paying
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any attention... And he was. But she noticed he didn't seem at all envious of her and Brambleclaw. This peeked her interest. She whispered to Brambleclaw, "Did you notice he's been acting kind of... Strange today?"

"Who? Mr. Love-a-lot?" Brambleclaw replied preferring to Ashfur, "Yeah I have."

"Okay... So I'm not crazy," Squirrelflight replied back.

"You should keep a close eye on him. He might be planning on something," Brambleclaw told her.

"I will," Squirrelflight said. She looked back over her shoulder and Ashfur was too preoccupied playing with some kits to notice she was watching him.

She was planning on keeping a very close eye on him from now on. She thought about last night. *What if it was that Scourge guy?* That rang in her head like a buzzard.

I Love You

[image]

Ashfur was taking a stroll alongside the border of Thunderclan. He felt a breeze flow through his pelt and it felt refreshing. He smiled and breathed in the fresh air.

"Today is going to be another good day. I can already tell," he breathes out.

"Hello," a deep, sexy male cat voice said from behind.

Ashfur jerked his head around, "Scourge!" he ran over and licked him, "You're here! But why?"

"I thought we should spend time together. How about it?" he said mischievously.

"*Oh?"* Ashfur replied curiously, "What are you planning on doing with the time we have together? I don't have lo-"

Ashfur was cut off when Scourge kissed him. He tried to break away, but to no avail. Scourge then pinned him down and kissed him harder. Making Ashfur weak under him.

Scourge broke the kiss, "There we go."

"Wh- what was that for?!" Ashfur exclaimed.

"Because you're cute," Scourge smirked.

Ashfur looked away. His pelt got hot with embarrassment. He didn't look Scourge in the eyes, "Jerk"

"*Am I*?" Scourge replied, "Would you like me to demonstrate what a *real* man can do?"

"Wh-where is this coming from?!" Ashfur backed away, face now red hot.

"Because I've been craving you lately. Specifically you," Scourge replied seriously, "I love you Ashfur. I want to be with you."

"Well... Can't we wait for the physical stuff later in our..." Ashfur gulped, "Relationship?"

"Absolutely," Scourge agreed, "Whatever you want, Prince."

Ashfur felt his heart race at that word. *Prince*. It felt like a suitable nickname. He liked it a lot.

"I love you, Scourge," Ashfur said.

Scourge flinched at the word "love". He has never had anyone tell him that before... He felt a piece of his heart warm up to the feeling. He smiled.

"I love you too, Ash," Scourge replied.

"Forever?" Ashfur asked.

"Forever." Scourge said.

"Promise?" Ashfur questioned.

"I promise." Scourge reassured him.

"Good boy," Ashfur replied and licked his muzzle.

Ashfur and Scourge spent the rest of their time together before Ashfur had to go home. He waved goodbye and walked back to camp. He was happy, for today was a great day like he had been promised.

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Ashfur was back at camp, he was now in quite a grumpy mood. He mumbled curse words to himself. Not only did Firestar scold him for being only a couple minutes late back to camp; but Squirrelflight also got up in Ashfur's business and became super nosey.
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"Ash!" Firestar called.

"What?" Ashfur replied with a tone.

"Can I have a word with you?" Firestar asked.

"Sure," Ashfur replied uneasy.

Oh great... Ashfur thought to himself. *Just what I needed. They're probably going to ask about Scourge. My day is bad enough as it is.*

Ashfur padded up to the leaders den and sat down, "You called?"

"Yes. I wanted to ask you something," Firestar's voice was flat and serious.

Ashfur felt his heart skip a beat and he gulped nervously, "Ask away."

"Where have you been going? You leave camp every single day and apparently go to the same place. According to some."

Ashfur felt himself tense up, "Well... Why does that matter?"

"It matters because you cannot simply leave camp and not tell me where you're going," Firestar was direct.

According to some? What i n StarClan forsaken is that supposed to me-

"No..." Ashfur's eyes went dark. He now realized that Squirrelflight was trying to set him up.

"What?" Firestar replied feeling uneasy.

"It's none of your business where I go and when I go there!!" Ashfur stated, "I am my own person and you CANNOT control that!!"

"Ashfur! I simply-"

"*Don't.*" Ashfur stopped him, "Just don't."

Ashfur stood up, "I control where and when I go. Who I'm with and how long I spend time with them."

"Wait... *Them*?" Firestar narrowed his eyes, "You've been seeing cats of other clans when you leave?!"

"It's... No... I-"

"Ashfur. Next time you go out, I'm sending another warrior to keep a close eye on you," Firestar told him.

"That's utter Frog-Dung!!" Ashfur repented.

"Not with the way you're acting," Firestar replied and walked out.

Ashfur sat there. Angered and shocked. He wanted to go after Firestar, but he knew he couldn't.

Why? Why me? He thought to himself.

Don't Follow Me

It was late at night and Ashfur couldn't sleep. He paced back and fourth quietly outside the Warriors den, making sure not to wake anyone up. He thought about what Firestar had said about him bringing another Warrior with him to see Scourge. He knew that wouldn't end well.

Ashfur mumbled to himself, "I have to go see Scourge..." he looked towards the camp entrance, "they'll never let me leave if I told them I was going back there again."

Ashfur quietly paced over to the camp entrance but was stopped to see two cats guarding it.

StarClan dang-it! Ashfur cussed to himself. *I have to find another way!*

Ashfur looked around, he was crouched so he wouldn't be noticed. He looked towards the bushes. Who says he couldn't just cut through here?

Ashfur slowly but surely made his way through the bushes. He didn't want anyone hearing him stumble through with the crackling of sticks and leaves. He soon made it to the other side and ran off to the moor where he usually meets Scourge.

He stopped short when he got there. He looked around, "Scourge? You here?"

No answer.

"Scourge?! I came by to see you! Please say something!" Ashfur called out again.

No answer.

Ashfur turned around in disappointment. He was upset to see Scourge was nowhere to be found.

Just as he was about to leave, he heard a voice.

"Ashfur," Scourge's deep voice filled Ashfur's ears with excitement.

"S-Scourge?!" Ashfur ran over to him and licked his muzzle.

"Why are you here so late? You should be sleeping," Scourge said with a serious tone.

"I couldn't sleep... Firestar said-"

"Hush," Scourge covered Ashfur's muzzle, "who cares about him. You're here now and that's all that matters to me."

"R-really?" Ashfur's eyes lit up.

"Yes," Scourge replied.

"Are you okay? You seem more serious than the other times we've met," Ashfur was concerned.

"It's just that..." Scourge paused.

"What? Say it! You can tell me!"

"I want you," Scourge replied.

"Well I'm here... You can have me," Ashfur replied, he knew what he was asking.

"Thank you my sweet Prince," Scourge licked his muzzle.

They stayed up until dawn having their own time together. After they were done Ashfur explained to Scourge what Firestar had said and Scourge was not happy. He decided that he would come with Ashfur next time he goes back to camp.

"I can't come with you this time only because I have many things to finish back in BloodClan," Scourge explained, "but- next time you come up, I'm following you back to camp and showing that damned Firestar he cannot control you and what you do."

"Thank you so much Scourge," Ashfur smiled weakly, "I hope you'll

be able to show them you're a good guy."

"I was never the good guy my dear," Scourge chuckled, "but I can surely show them there is nothing to be afraid of."

"I think that would be a great idea," Ashfur replied.

Scourge looked up at the sky, "I think it's time for you to get going..."

"I think you're right," Ashfur replied, "I should head back. Either way, I'm probably in trouble."

"If you are I'll punish you," Scourge smirked and teased.

"Heh..." Ashfur's face lit up with a light pink.

Scourge got up off of Ashfur and waved him goodbye. Ashfur returned the favor and walked back to camp.

As Ashfur was walking, he began to contemplate whether or not he *should* actually let Scourge follow him back to ThunderClan. What if this was a trap? What if Scourge was planning an ambush and using Ashfur to get to Firestar? What if...

Many "*what if's*" passed through Ashfur's mind. He didn't want to overthink it too much. Yet again, he would never forgive himself if something happened to camp because of him. Ashfur thought about Squirrelflight, then Firestar, and Brambleclaw. He growled knowing that Squirrelflight would never love him, but quickly changed his growl to a purr when he thought of Scourge.

Ashfur finally reached camp only to find a very aggravated Firestar glaring at him with intense eyes. Ashfur trembled, unsure of why he was so afraid.

"And where have you been?" Firestar growled deeply.

Ashfure gulped, "u-uh... out?"

"Out *where?*" Firestar retorted, "if I hear you have been seeing other cats, Ashfur. I am NOT letting you out of my sight *or* camp!"

"You can't control me!!" Ashfur hissed, "I am my own person and you are not controlling who I see and what I do!"

"I beg to differ," Firestar replied calmly, "I am your leader, I have every right to do what I think is necessary!"

Ashfur smirked, "what about patrols? Huh? You can't keep me from doing them!"

"I can and I will," Firestar replied with a straight face.

Ashfur pulled his lip back, almost what seemed in a disgusted manner, "you're kidding me?"

"No," Firestar said.

"Fine. Do what you please, but don't think that I can't work my way around this. You're as air headed as that she-cat mate of yours," Ashfur sneered.

Firestar's fur bristled and he stood on all fours, hissing furiously, "NEVER talk about Sandstorm like that again!"

"Whatever you say, *boss."* Ashfur grunted, "I guess it's alright for you to be talking trash when I'm out, but I can't return the favor?"

"Cats from this clan are *different*," Firestar hissed, "you KNOW the Warrior Code does not allow you to do so, otherwise!"

"Screw the Warrior Code! Nobody listens to it anyway!!" Ashfur shouted.

"Back into camp," Firestar said slightly calmer, "we are having *extra* Warriors keep a close eye out for you."

Ashfur hissed loudly as he pushed past Firestar and ran into the camp. He made his way to the Warriors den and laid down. He began to cry, hating his clan and everyone in it. Firestar especially.

Ashfur thought to himself for a moment, "*maybe I should take up on that offer to join Bloodclan...*" he sniffled, "*then no one will ever have to bully me again. No Firestar, no rules, no* ***Squirrelflight****."*

He stood up and shook himself off, "I'm going to leave tonight. No cat can stop me. Not even Firestar."

Tonight...

Ashfur stood up and shook himself off, "I am leaving tonight, no one can stop me. Not even Firestar."

Ashfur slept for awhile, to shake off the feeling of being angry and slightly heartbroken. He woke up a few hours later and walked out of the Warriors den, refreshed and already planning his escape.

"*This feels like a prison*," he thought, "*even though I can roam free...*"

Firestar was talking to Brambleclaw. They both looked over at Ashfur and sneered at him. Ashfur had to try his best to look away, showing them he wasn't afraid. But Ashfur was nearly terrified about what may happen if he went against his leaders rule. So he acted casual until it came to the time where he planned to escape.

Ashfur walked up to Squirrelflight, "Hey."

"Yes?" Squirrelflight replied with a slight uninterested tone in her voice.

"Jeez, lighten up." Ashfur growled, "I was going to ask if you could let Brambleclaw know I was going hunting."

"Last time you said that you snuck out to see your lover," Squirrelflight spat, "don't think I'm not onto you. I was told to keep an eye out."

"My lo-" Ashfur stopped himself from saying something he'd regret, "look, I will come back with good, plump, prey. Enough to feed the whole clan."

Squirrelflight raised an eyebrow in interest, "the *whole* clan?"

"Yes."

"As in... not just the few cats you talk to everyday. You mean... *everyone*?"

"You keep this up and you can spit dust and starve," Ashfur spat.

"Whoa! I was only kidding! Jeez, Ash! Didn't you say yourself you'd do anything for me?" Squirrelflight mocked.

"Not anymore, fish-brain." Ashfur spat back, "you no longer have any meaning to me."

Ashfur very well knew that was a lie. He felt his chest tighten even just saying those words. He attempted to change the subject before Squirrelflight tried to tell the entire clan he had placed an empty threat to her.

"So, about that hunting patrol. It'll only be me, got it?"

Squirrelflight blinked her eyes a few times. Her upper lip curled a little, "what did you just call me?"

"Fish-brained, no-"

"Don't try to change the subject!" Squirrelflight rudely interrupted, "*never* call me that!"

"Oh, what? You're sensitive all of the sudden?" Ashfur retorted, "it's not like you haven't done the same to me! Don't play victim!"

"Did *what* to you?!" Squirrelflight growled. "I never-"

"Shut it! StarClan damned it shut your mouth!" Ashfur screamed, which caught the attention of all cats in the camp. "You can't come onto me saying how much of an awful person I am! Not only that, but if you're gonna go running to Brambleclaw saying I hurt your feelings, you can forget ever seeing his face again. I will make it so you don't even recognize it *was* him."

"Don't threaten my mate, Ashfur." Squirrelflight's light growl nearly turned into a snarl, almost like a pack of wolves.

"That's enough! Both of you!" Brambleclaw quickly padded over and got between the feuding cats.

"Lay a paw on her. *I dare you*." Brambleclaw intimidated.

Ashfur smirked, which then turned into a sudden manic laughter. "You..."

Brambleclaw braced himself, Squirrelflight ready to pounce as well.

"You won't need to," Ashfur said calmly.

"What?" Brambleclaw said confused, but he was not about to let his guard down.

Ashfur snickered at how protective Brambleclaw was being, "I'm leaving tonight."

The entire clan gasped at the possessive warrior. Brambleclaw lifted his head and made a face of obvious confusion. Squirrelflight slightly tilted her head towards the left, wondering if she heard him correctly.

Ashfur rolled his eyes, "yeah, yeah. Be as curious and confused as you want. I want nothing to do with this clan any longer."

Firestar padded up, "then I don't suppose you'd mind to explain *why* you're leaving, Ashfur?"

Ashfur felt his heart start to beat harder, "I... uh, well... you see-"

"There it is," Firestar said, "you know why, you just refuse to tell us."

"I-it's not like that, it's just-"

"Just *what*? Seeing other cats out of the clan?" Firestar growled, "nonetheless the rouge smell that has clung to your pelt these last few days?"

The whole clan gasped, Ashfur could feel his face getting hot with anger and anxiety. He felt his chest tighten as he started to shake a bit.

"H-how... how did you...?"

"It was easy, Ashfur. You *do* remember how cats work, right? Our

sense of smell is superior to any other being." Firestar stated.

Ashfur couldn't move. How could he be so dumb? How could he forget to get rid of the scent before he came back to camp?

"*How could they tell it was a rouge...?*" he thought to himself.

"Out of my clan, Ashfur," Firestar said, "Exile him!!"

All the cats started to gather around where Ashfur was standing. Every last one of them, including Squirrelflight, were hissing, growling and screeching. Ashfur felt his heart pace quicken. Dear StarClan, did they want him dead?

Ashfur quickly looked for an opening, and dashed between a few cats that had left an open space. One of them slashed at him, nipping his ear. This made Ashfur squeak in pain, but he ignored it and kept on running.

Faster... faster... faster... faster still. He couldn't bare the thought of knowing they might be right behind him, hoping to chase him off a cliff. Ashfur eventually lost sight of them, no scent in range either. He plopped down on his side, panting heavily and gasping for air. He ached all over and his ear was killing him.

"*No turning back now...*" he thought to himself, "*they'll kill me if I do*."

Ashfur suddenly felt his eyes get heavy, the sudden adrenaline drop made him tired. He couldn't possibly fall asleep, especially if he didn't even recognize where he was. Alas, he closed his eyes for a minute and dozed off. Hoping to StarClan that ThunderClan wouldn't find him, and Scourge did...

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Scourge had just left BloodClan. His fellow rouges and clanmates needed food, so he had Bone, Brick and Ice follow him. He stopped short when he saw someone laying on the ground.

"Fresh kill?" said Brick, "guess we got lucky."

They all padded up until Scourge recognized who it was.
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"No!" he cried out, "get him back to camp. Now."

"Yes sir," the other cats replied simultaneously.

Scourge's eyes grew dark, "I'm not letting him die here. Firestar is going to pay."

Wake-Up Call

After Ashfur had suddenly passed out due to fatigue, his senses slap him awake. He realized he was no longer in the forest... or even near ThunderClan! Ashfur growled to himself, upset that he let himself be caught by... wait- where *was* he??

"Ugh... my head," Ashfur mumbled, "where in StarClan am I?"

Ashfur noticed he was in a large box, sleeping in a tire. His fur bristled, he felt his whole body get hot with adrenaline. Was he going to be killed? Was this an ambush? He refused to find out, he stayed still and quiet. How could he have been so stupid as to let himself be caught?

He sniffed the air to see if he could recognize where he was or if there were any familiar cats nearby. It only reeked of dead, rotting, mice, trash, and cat dung. He growled, a little too loud, his ears perked up when he heard a rustle getting closer towards him.

"Nn... not now..." he whispered.

Bone peaked his head over the tire, "oh good you're awa-"

Screeches erupted the entire alley way as Ashfur pounced on Bone, denying him the chance to finish his sentence. Ashfur felt his body ache as he attacked Bone full force with his unsheathed claws, he was too weak to keep this up for very long.

Bone grabbed Ashfur by the neck scruff and threw him across the ground. Ashfur landed with a thud on the ground and struggled to get up. He huffed and his vision went blurry. Bone slowly walked up to him and put a paw on his shoulder.

"What the hell is wrong with you?!" he shouted.

"Ah... w-what?" Ashfur stuttered.

"On behalf of our rouge leader, Scourge, you are apart of our clan now; but if you're going to attack us unexpectedly, then I'll do the reconsidering for him." Bone snarled.

"Rouge... leader?"

"Yes, you mouse-brain. He saw you laying outside on the ground. He was worried sick. So we decided to let you stay here and join us. Don't make us regret it."

Ashfur tried to get on his paws, but Bone was too strong, and Ashfur was still weak from running and suddenly attacking. Bone was barely putting any pressure, which made Ashfur feel pathetic.

"Get off of him *now*," Scourge's growl was heard through the entire alleyway.

Bone got off and backed away quickly, he nearly tripped over his own two back paws. He felt a cold-hot flash run through him. "A-ah! Sc-Scourge I apologize. He suddenly attacked me and-"

"HUSH!" Scourge yowled, "if he had killed you, I wouldn't have lifted a paw. You better make sure you don't startle him next time, or I'll kill you myself."

Bone gulped, "y-yes sir."

Scourge rushed over to him, knocking Bone out of the way. Bone felt a tang of anger and jealousy flash through him.

"*Lucky bastard*..." he thought and padded off.

"My love..." Scourge said in a soft, tender voice.

Ashfur couldn't even talk, he was too exhausted to speak. He just let out a barely audible squeak and Scourge felt his anger grow. He licked his mates cheek and growled at Brick and Ice.

"Go get him food!!" he demanded.

"Yes sir!" they said in reunion.

Scourge laid beside Ashfur, his face held a hurt and saddened look. His inner fury wanted to head to the forest right away to kill Firestar, but he knew that if he couldn't protect his mate if he had gotten injured, he might as well die.

As Brick and Ice were out hunting, Scourge looked over his shoulder to see Bone glaring at them. He felt his fur prickle, he knew Bone loved him, but Scourge could never stand how clingy and possessive he was. Scourge stayed silent and snuggled closer to Ashfur just to hear Bone's jealous growl. It amused him.

"Bone..." Scourge started off.

"Ah! Yes, Scourge?" he replied, snapping out of his state of mind.

"Why so jealous?" Scourge replied with obvious intention to throw Bone off.

Bone felt a cold chill run down his spine, "Wh-who e-ever said I was j-jealous?" He tried not to stutter in front of everyone, but failed miserably. How did Scourge know he was... jealous?

"Isn't it obvious?" Scourge replied, not even looking over his shoulder to face Bone. He smirked deviously, "you're so dense, I sometimes wonder if you even have a brain."

Bone choked on air. He felt his heart skip a beat. Scourge felt almost... emotionless. He felt the cold, dead air waft over to him, even though he was a few feet away.

"Scared? Awww..." Scourge replied. He felt Bone quiver from a mile away. Scourge could feel the cold air around him, spreading throughout the alleyway of BloodClan, making everyone feel they were going to die of hypothermia.

"You make it so easy, Bone," Scourge continued, "I know you like me, but let's get this straight. I will *never* like you. Ever. You are too possessive and clingy for my liking."

Without even thinking, Bone lashed out, "So is that... *thing* you call a mate!"

Suddenly, ear piercing screeches errupted the camp. Scourge whipped around, running at Bone rapidly, Bone had no time to dodge. Scourge slashed his face and make a large nick in his ear. Bone cried out in pain and forced every last nerve in his body not to attack right back.

"You EVER call him that again, I will have your head on display for the entire world to see," Scourge spat.

Bone only grunted, he wanted to argue back, but he knew it would mean obvious death for him. Bone felt his eyes well up with tears. He pushed past Scourge and hopped over Ashfur, leaving the camp as fast as he could. He slammed into Brick and Ice and fell with an oomph.

Brick and Ice tumbled backwards. Brick put the prey down and looked at Bone confusingly, "Whoa, man! Watch where you're going! What's up with you?"

"N-none of your business!" he cried, "did you get the prey?"

"Yes we did. Are... you crying?" Brick snickered, he had never seen a tough cat like him shed tears before.

Bone growled and wiped the blood off his face and held out his paw, "I have a good reason to!"

"Oh!" said Ice, "are you okay? Who did th-"

"Scourge! I hate him!" Bone interupted. Before either of them could ask questions, Bone was on his feet and running away, yet again.

Brick and Ice exchanged glances confusingly, they both shrugged it off and padded back towards camp with their prey.

In the meanwhile, Scourge was growing aggravated. Where were Brick and Ice? It shouldn't take them that long to go fetch something to eat. Unless they were slacking...

Just then, Brick and Ice padded into the BloodClan territory. Scourge only moved his eyes to irritatingly sneer at them. His fury died down a tad.

"Where were you two, hmm?" Scourge asked.

Both cats felt a chill run down their spine. Brick padded over and dropped the vole by Ashfur. He gulped, "w-we got caught up with some pesty Thunderclan warriors. W-we're s-sorry, sir."

"ThunderClan you say?" Scourge smirked, "do you know what they did to this one?"

Brick stayed frozen. Was he supposed to answer? Or was that a rhetorical question?

"No matter," Scourge spoke. "You two did a good job, you can sleep together in the tire tonight."

"Th-thank you Master Scourge!" Brick praised.

Scourge nodded as a "thank you" towards the two males, they strutted off to the tire in the box. Most comfortable place for anyone to sleep, although only a select few can sleep there.

"Ashfur..." Scourge said, his voice cold with anger.

"Y-yes... Scourge?"

"I need you to get better for me, can you do that?" Scourge said.

"I-I will try... that's my only goal for right now."

"Good boy," Scourge growled, "and once you are, I will kill every damn kittypet and warrior in that filthy, good for nothing, ThunderClan! Then I will rule the forest, once and for all!"

"N-no! You ca-"

Ashfur was cut off by Scourge kissing him. Ashfur felt tears fall from his eyes as he did so. Even though Ashfur was never allowed back to ThunderClan... that was a place he called home. It had sentimental value to it.

"I can and I will," Scourge replied softly, lifting away from the tom, "you will be safe here, away from those pests we call *warriors*."

"If you insist..." Ashfur said, he had no strength to argue with him. He will allow him to do and say as he pleases, until it gets out of hand.

Scourge had help getting Ashfur onto his back, he carried him over to the dumpster and made a bed for him. Ashfur climbed in and laid down, it was oddly more comfortable than the warriors dens back at camp.

"Attention all rouges, loners, kittypets and rejects!" Scourge shouted, "the day after tomorrow, we will strike at noon! We will show those worthless clan warriors that they should fear us! They will bow before our true king... ME!"

All cats erupted in screeches and roars of excitement. They only wanted what their king truly desired, to rule the forest.

"And as for Firestar..." Scourge said to himself, "he will regret ever joining this place, even if I have to pluck his hairs, one by one." Scourge whipped around and slashed a telephone pole, leaving large claw marks right through the side. He laughed manically, "THIS WILL BE THE END OF ALL CLAN EXISTENCE!! AHAHAHA!"

Our New King

Author's Note: to all my fans and followers! Thank you so much for all the kind comments and support of this fanfiction! It's because of all of you guys that I am even continuing this fanfic! I hope you enjoy the rest of the story. It fills my heart with joy knowing you all love the newest updates and are ecstatic on seeing more! Summer break is finally upon me, which means... yeah! More frequent updates!

~~Enjoy the story!

~~~

Scourge was watching his subjects running back and fourth, in and out of the alleyway, training and trash talking one another. This was his plan to make sure he won... he even had some of his strongest warriors head out to find other rouges and abandoned kittypets in an attempt to persuade them to join his cult. The only problem, though... was Scourge had not seen Bone since yesterday's feud. Where the hell was he?

Bone was running back to the alleyway frantically, he had done something terrible he knew he shouldn't have. He couldn't possibly tell Scourge about this...

Bone whipped around the corner, rushing to the other clanmates, he had attempted to hide himself in hopes Scourge wouldn't even bother noticing him. He was sadly mistaken...

"And where the hell do you think *you* were, Bone?" Scourge growled from behind him.

"I... ah... I uh-" Bone could not even cough up a good excuse as to where he was or why he left.
~~~

Scourge's eyes narrowed, he walked up to Bone and slipped a claw under his collar, pulling him close. Their muzzles nearly touched, it almost made them look like they were kissing.

"I told you once, don't make me say it again," Scourge growled, "Where. Were. You?"

"Out," Bone replied in a choke of fear.

"Out *where*?"

"Th-Thunderclan..." Bone replied.

"Oh no... I wasn't supposed to say that!" Bone thought.

"HOW DARE YOU!" Scourge screeched, throwing Bone across the clan path, in which Bone came to a hard stop after he slammed into a wall.

"How *DARE* you betray us!!! You filth!" Scourge's hot breath and howling made it hard for Bone to open his eyes, nonetheless breathe.

Bone laid on his back, against the wall, he was too terrified to move. For he knew that meant certain death considering how Scourge was faster than him.

"I-I'm... s-sorry, sir!" Bone stuttered up an apology.

"*Sorry*?" Scourge growled, "you're sorry?!"

"Y-yes, I-"

"NO ONE ASKED YOU TO SPEAK!" Scourge screeched. He narrowed his eyes, "what did you tell them?"

"Nothing! I didn't say anything!" Bone lied, in hopes to get him to calm down.

"Don't play stupid with me, pest. I know what you've done, tell me the truth, and I may let you go." Scourge demanded.

"O-okay! I told them everything! They know of our plan and are already preparing warriors to come ambush us!"

"BASTARD!!" Scourge spat and slashed Bones cheek, leaving a deep flesh wound on his face. Scourge pinned Bone by the throat and pressed on him, making him cough, "you are the *weakest*, most **selfish** cat I know!"

Bone was struggling to breathe, he took his paws and attempted to move Scourge's paw off his throat. Alas, Scourge was much stronger than Bone, no matter how small he was. Bone felt small and weak knowing there was nothing he could do.

Scourge got off him, leaving Bone to wheeze, hack, and cough. He turned around and padded towards the dumpster, "we strike tonight. We must all give it our very best in order to succeed in our conquer of the forest!"

Everyone cheered, paws in the air, howling. Others stomped their paws on the ground as if they were clapping.

"Meet your new king everyone... For tonight, the forest will be ours!"

Deal...

[image]

Author's Note: Ahh! I'm so sorry! I completely forgot to upload the last chapter! I will give you guys yet another update so you can enjoy the story.

Scourge was pacing back and fourth. He felt tense and sore from the stress he has been undergoing. He still hasn't forgave Bone for the crime against Bloodclan he committed. How could he possibly do this? Scourge knew none of his clanmates were strong enough.

He padded up to Bone, whom was training with Brick and Ice. He stopped to watch for a bit, then noticed how Bone went from attacking fairly well, to hesitation due to the pressure.

"You are pathetic," Scourge said. "Nothing more than a rat and a thorn in my side. You crack under pressure, in hopes I will notice you and give you pity."

"I am *trying* my best," Bone said, "what more could you want from me?!"

"Did you just talk back to me?" Scourge growled, "ugh... no matter. You need to understand I don't love you anymore. It will stay that way, too. I don't care to impress anyone here, and neither should you."

"I'm not out here to impress you," Bone replied. "I'm here to fight."

"Then why did you stop fighting?" Scourge leered.

Bone felt his chest tighten, he was trembling as he spoke these words to Scourge. Knowing damn well it killed him inside knowing Scourge loved someone else. Bone couldn't speak, his heart was in his throat, making him clench his teeth in anger and sorrow.

"Forget I said anything and get out of here. Unless you want me to

side with Thunderclan?" Bone growled.

Scourge narrowed his eyes, he *knows* he didn't just hear that come from Bone's mouth. Scourge said nothing, knowing that if he let Bone slip from his paws, ThunderClan may just win this. Scourge turned around and left Bone to continue training. He sneered to himself, sly bastard...

"Didn't think so..." Bone whispered to himself. He turned around and took a swipe at Brick, faster than he was before.

"Whoa! Hold up!" Brick hollered, "what's been going on with you? You haven't been yourself lately."

"*I* haven't been myself?! It's you who-"

Bone was interrupted when the entire clan was looking at him due to the commotion. Bone took a deep breath.

"I'm sorry... I- it's... personal." Bone breathed.

"I know what you mean," Ice replied, "it's Scourge isn't it?"

Bone's ears perked up, guess it's not a surprise they knew. Everyone did, Bone just chooses to ignore the fact about it. It made him feel pathetic and weak minded.

"Uh... y-yeah..." Bone replied.

"How about we make a deal? We don't like seeing you so upset." Ice smirked.

"Deal?" Bone replied curiously.

"It's not safe to talk here, people might get suspicious," Brick pointed out.

"Good idea, let's walk while we discuss this," Ice agreed.

All three tom cats headed outside the BloodClan alleyway and walked along the sidewalk. They walked a few more paces until the BloodClan alleyway was barely visible.

"Now, then... about that deal," Ice said. "Brick and I have been discussing this for awhile now. It seems you're the talk among the clan since your betrayal."

"Oh yeah... that..." Bone sulked.

"Don't be upset, some hate you yes. Others find you bold to do such a thing, considering you are Scourge's ex, everyone thought that he would have killed you on the dot." Ice said with admiration.

"Oh really? Y-yeah... I guess that's true!" Bone stood up slightly taller.

"Now don't get cocky," Ice chuckled, "next time that happens, he might actually slit your throat."

Bone sulked a tad, Ice was right. He shouldn't get ahead of himself.

"Anyhow... for the deal... how about we kill Ashfur? And frame another cat for his death?"

"Frame someone?! Are you crazy?!" Bone retorted.

"Now, now... you'd be the hero," Ice said slyly.

"I'm listening..." Bone leaned in, listening carefully.

"Scourge would be so busy attacking the other cat, he doesn't notice you at first. Then he sees you hovering over Ashfur with mourn. When he comes over, you put on your poker face and lie to him, saying how hard you tried to fend the cat off." Ice explained further.

"That... that may actually work," Bone's eyes darted around, imagining the scenario, spacing out a tad.

"Here's the fun part, Scourge will see you as a hero and come to you for comfort."

"Yeah... that won't happen," Bone said. "You've seen him, and heard what he said. He hates me and wants nothing to do with me."

"That's where you're wrong," Ice spoke, "as rough and hateful as

Scourge may be, he *does* still have a soft spot for you."

"You think so?"

"I know so," Ice smirked, "he said it himself recently."

"Really?!" Bone shot up in excitement.

"Now, settle, don't want to draw attention to yourself again." Ice teased.

"Ah- s-sorry..." Bone apologized, pulling his paws close and covering them with his tail in embarrassment.

"Don't be, it's amusing," Ice smiled, "now... deal or no deal?"

Bone looked at the ground for what felt like hours, although it was only a few minutes. He took a deep breath and sighed slowly.

"Deal."

"Very good," Ice nodded, "let's get back to camp, they're probably waiting for us."

Bone nodded in agreement and all three, yet again, made their way back to the alleyway. Bone's head was buzzing faster than a bee, thinking about the fact that not only were they going to kill Ashfur, but was extremely curious as to why Brick and Ice would help. It almost felt too good to be true... Bone ignored that however, if he wanted Scourge back, he needed to focus on the task at hand.

They got back just in time to see Scourge jump on top of the dumpster. He took a long look at everyone before continuing. There were more cats now than there ever has been, thanks to the exception of having more join the clan.

"Tonight, ladies and gentlecats! We will all see the rise of Bloodclan, and the fall of Thunderclan! Tonight is the night you will meet your new king! A king only worthy of the strongest warriors and rouges in this forest!"

Everyone cheered, pounding their paws against the ground in

applause, howling, screeching, and praising.

"Tonight at nightfall, this will be the end, the end of... THUNDERCLANNN!!!"

More cheers and roars of excitement filled the alleyway. Bone could feel the ground shaking due to the applause everyone was giving. His heart was racing, the adrenaline was kicking in...

"*Yes...*" he thought. "*I will win you back tonight...*"

"Are we ready?!" Scourge shouted.

All cats screamed and roared, cheering Scourge.

"I said, are we READY?"

At this point, it almost felt like you could have gone deaf from all the howling. Bone, Brick, and Ice joined in as well. Everyone was antsy to battle ThunderClan, but they knew they had hours before it happened.

"Then let us rise! Rise above all! Kill Firestar! And win the hearts of all, making them quake as we pass!" Scourge shouted.

There were howls of excitement and praise. Scourge jumped down off the dumpster and padded around everyone. All was disbanded and everyone went back to their duties, Scourge walked over to Bone.

"Seems you have come to your senses. Thank you for attending tonight's meeting," Scourge bowed his head in thank.

Suddenly, out of the corner of Scourges eye, a familiar face and body build was standing at the entrance.

"Hello," greeted Tigerstar.